

December 16, 1999

CENTER FOR VETERINARY BIOLOGICS NOTICE NO. 99-31

Subject: Center for Veterinary Biologics Y2K Telecommunications Contingency Plan

To: Biologics Licensees, Permittees, and Applicants
Directors, Center for Veterinary Biologics

As the new millennium approaches, the USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services, Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) is committed to continued uninterrupted service. Dealing with the Year 2000 (Y2K) millennium bug has been and continues to be a Government-wide challenge. Potentially Y2K-sensitive systems including laboratory equipment, building and facilities, telecommunications, etc., have been evaluated. Remediation and/or replacement have occurred where needed. Testing and validation have been completed. Contingency plans are in place to prevent any interruption of our mission-critical services that support the overall Veterinary Services mission. This includes the unlikely event of a telecommunications failure affecting our internal switching and phone equipment.

If telecommunications do fail, the CVB has developed contingency plans to assure continued service. These plans include the availability of an emergency phone number, (515) 233-5799, which bypasses normal circuits. The CVB-Laboratory, Inspection and Compliance, and Licensing and Policy Development units may all be reached at this number. This number will be available ONLY if normal telecommunications have failed and will only be available until such time as normal communications have been restored. Use the regular number for optimal service, and attempt to use the emergency number only if regular circuits are not in service. Should it become necessary to use this line, we ask for your patience with any delays that may occur due to its use by all CVB and National Veterinary Services Laboratories customers and stakeholders.

Our Y2K activities are a part of an overall Agency effort. For more information of the APHIS Y2K compliance activities, please consult the APHIS Y2K Home Page located at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/y2k>.

/s/ Randall L. Levings

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